

For Immediate Release April 11, 2008 CONTACT:
Brad Sherwood
Public Information Officer
707.547.1927

State Senator Wiggins Secures Urgency Funding for Coastal Fishery Restoration

SB 562 signed by Governor Schwarzenegger today

(Santa Rosa, CA) —Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today signed SB 562, authored by State Senator Pat Wiggins (D-Santa Rosa) and co-sponsored by the Sonoma County Water Agency and California Trout, Inc. The bill appropriates approximately \$5.3 million of the \$45 million in Proposition 84 funds to begin coastal salmon and steelhead fishery restoration projects. The urgency funding comes at a time when the adult salmon fishery from the Sacramento River and around the state has dramatically declined.

"It is because of Senator Wiggin's hard work and leadership that a strong bi-partisan vote of support sent this bill to the governor's desk for signature today," said Assistant General Manager Grant Davis. "Assemblymember Patty Berg also played a leadership role in making this bill a success in the Assembly. The Agency is proud to continue co-sponsoring legislation, such as SB 562, to ensure our coastal salmon and steelhead have a vibrant future."

The funding will be used for various types of restoration projects on the coast, including removing stream blockage and stream bank repairs.

Proposition 84, otherwise known as the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, was approved by voters in the November 7, 2006 statewide general election.

"Now, more than ever, is the time to invest in our coastal regions in order to protect coastal salmon and steelhead. We look forward to implementing these restoration projects as soon as possible," said Davis.

###

Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at www.sonomacountywater.org.